



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

---

1869-04-17

**Letter from [John Muir] to Dan[iel H. Muir], 1869 Apr 17.**

John Muir

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence>

---

**Recommended Citation**

Muir, John, "Letter from [John Muir] to Dan[iel H. Muir], 1869 Apr 17." (1869). *John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)*. 1299.

<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/muir-correspondence/1299>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Muir Correspondence (PDFs) by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [mgibney@pacific.edu](mailto:mgibney@pacific.edu).

April 10<sup>th</sup> 1869.

Oak Hill, Cedar Key, Fla.

Once more dear friend John have one of your  
 nice kind letters come to hand & I know it  
 is useless to tell you how welcome it was & how  
 very glad we all were to hear of your complete restoration  
 to health once more, and you are a "Shepherd,"  
 well! well! I only wish I could spend as quiet & happy  
 a life as I know you do among the gay flocks of your  
 flock & the dear old Thomas, How I envy you  
 the great privilege of beholding all the glories  
 beauties of Creation, but I'm "but a woman" & cannot  
 make the animal part keep pace with the mental  
 or spiritual existence, I must be content & watch  
 the part the good Lord lent to me for awhile &  
 who knows but some day I too may see amid  
 the lovely wilds of our or distant spot as your  
 "San Joaquin Valley" You must try to help  
 me to see those beauties by the aid of your  
 ready pencil & giving pen point & describe all  
 you get some vividly, though I can sometimes almost  
 imagine I see your lovely home & you self amid  
 the flowers regaling some some new plant just  
 found, If I had of been educated a Botanist I  
 could tell where my love of it might not have led  
 me, as it is I am a passionate worshipper of flowers  
 & love their next to human beings, Send me  
 roots seeds & blooms of all you can get, I am



spending all my leisure time in adorning my home with flowers, I have laid out all my front yard in beds of fancy shapes edged with large shells pale white & on plants all I can get in the North wild & cultivated. I have a hill of that luxuriant vine & several plants of that beautiful Engelm. with the white berries for Mr. Key, being it is called the Snowberry plant. I wish to Mr. Key on paper to get it.

Mr. Hooper says I am planting onions for the raising of Mosquitoes in greater numbers, I don't help it, I wish to have my flowers. I have the entire crop of "Spangle" berries (all I can find now) for "Uncle Lay's" type.

I have been able at last to purchase my home from the original owner, so I feel quite secure in placing every labor I devote to it to improve & embellish it, we do not forget though that we have to eat, as well as see & have about 20,000 young orange trees coming and a couple of hundred Lemon & lime 5-0 figs & 150 Bananas & plantains with a few pine Apples, so you see we have not been idle the past year. We have now a flourishing garden for which we are eating vegetables daily. We have cucumbers for dinner today - with 9 Potatoes. I wish to see you in person.

Edy and last respects to you. I wish to visit you but you with you to Col. Mr. (but what what I have done without my Edy (see me).

He says if he does not succeed he will write he will sell his place & go out there yet, but I hope he will be successful & stay near me while I live, since I wrote you last my health has been very bad indeed, but after a severe attack with my throat in Feb I have been improving & now full as well as ever. Hope to see you before the 10 yrs expired paying me a visit here again & hope we will be able to see some considerable.

The name of that young man was Wm. P. Crossdale (Crossdale) went to Texas somewhere, I can't tell you where, have never heard from him since he left Galveston for the interior.

Mr. Richards returned to Maine in bad health does not write to me, Miss Thapson is still Miss G. though I am no doubt could easily be induced to change it for another prefix.

My other children are all well & still remember & think & speak of Mr. Minnie often.

I have a Lady for visiting me now for a while that I wish you could know she is the daughter of a bonny scot (Miss MacRae) I have told her of you & read part of your last letters to her, she was delighted as I could visit & say she did not know you Mrs. Mac H. is now engaged in getting out Cedar logs & Palmetto enough to make us a support again.



640

without so much uncertainty as the Mills are for instance  
as he gets by contract. The Mills in the hands of  
others but nothing doing at it.  
We had an uncommon severe winter here had  
ice ~~for~~ days in succession without melting  
thought I had note up in another climate Christmas  
many everything freezes up, Sugar Cane & potatoe &c  
badly injured, tremendous crop of potatoes all ruined  
by the great freeze - The Mangroves we talked  
all day about to Rep. Hart very large trees  
injured badly, Old people say has not been winter  
for thirty years before.

Mr. Hodgson send his respects says give him a full  
description of the country its advantages &c

I hope to hear from you soon write me frequently

By the way I must tell you a joke that took  
place at dinner - My friend Miss M<sup>r</sup> is going to  
be married & I was wishing her much happiness &  
said "I can only wish that when you have been married  
as long as I, (22 years) you may be as much in love as I am"  
when she added with Mr. Minn " & we all had a  
great laugh Mr. M says if "I think getting so old  
& you so far away he would be getting jealous!"

So we joke, some of each others love & perfect  
confidence - May you be as happy in your choice

As like as I am - Your truly P. A. Hodgson